

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 26.01.2016:



President Paul Elliot opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 17 members present. He invited **Rex Dixon** to give his display on **German Winter Relief**.

From 1920 the German Post Office began issuing a series of stamps each year with a charitable premium. This was used by a private charitable organisation to help people in need. As well as stamps, booklets, postal stationary cards and booklet sheets were also sold to raise money. In 1933 when Hitler came into power Goebbels built on the scheme by launching the winter relief programme whose aim was to stop undue suffering in the winter. This was a massive relief programme supported by businesses and banks. Half the amount was collected in money by means of a payroll tax with the self-employed also encouraged to donate and the rest in goods such as shoes, eggs, potatoes and coal. In the first year, 1933, 358 million Reich marks were collected (about £20 million in 1933 money).

The first half of the display was the stamps, stamp booklets, postal stationery cards and booklet sheets from 1925 through to 1940. Many of the sets were unmounted mint. The second part of the display was a variety of material collected from the period including covers, metre marks showing the organisations involved, publicity slogans, lottery cards and postcards. There was even a collecting tin used to collect money from shops and at door-to-door collections.

A most interesting topic supported by excellent material and greatly enjoyed by the members. The meeting closed at 21.45 hours after a vote of thanks by President Paul.

29.01.2016

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Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary.